

January 10, 2018

The Honorable Dr. John Bizon  
Michigan State House of Representatives  
N-996 House Office Building

Dear Representative Bizon,

We are writing today to provide our concerns in any changes that would remove language related to the pass-through savings for patients that pay for prescription drugs with cash, apply towards their deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. It is our hope that any versions of House Bill 4472 would preserve these important patient protections.

Biologic drugs are some of the most expensive drugs used to treat complex conditions like cancer, arthritis, and other diseases and their increased use poses a number of issues for patients. Interchangeable biologics, or biosimilars, may offer some potential for increasing accessibility and affordability, as they provide competition for originator biologic drugs in a similar way that generic drugs do for name-brand drugs. As generics have done for small-molecule drugs, interchangeable biosimilars have the potential to increase price competition on older biologic drugs, and result in lower cost burdens for patients. As state policies on biosimilars are developed, they must ensure access and affordability of biosimilars for patients.

Striking any policy that allows pharmacists to dispense and pass along savings of a lower-cost option drug defeats one of the goals of this legislation: to improve access and affordability of these innovative therapies.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and your continued leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

